

July 9, 2012
Rio Grande Watermaster Office
1804 W Jefferson Avenue
Harlingen, Texas
1:30 pm

Agenda

Call to order / Determination of a quorum.....Wayne Halbert
Introductions.....Erasmo Yarrito, Jr.
New WAC members.....Wayne Halbert
Minutes from previous meeting.....Erasmo Yarrito, Jr.
Discuss the proposed budget for fiscal year 2013.....Erasmo Yarrito, Jr.
Cindy Hooper
Watermaster reports.....Erasmo Yarrito, Jr.
Update and discussion on legislative session.....Wayne Halbert
El Morillo Drain Update/Discussion.....Sonny Hinojosa
Public Comments and Concerns
Future Meetings
Adjourn.

Wayne Halbert, Chairman

RIO GRANDE WATERMASTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 09, 2012
TCEQ/RGWM OFFICE, HARLINGEN, TX.
1:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

MINUTES

- I. Chair, Wayne Halbert called the meeting to Order and determined a quorum was present.
- II. Rio Grande Watermaster, Erasmo Yarrito, Jr. (Moe) introduced his staff as well as TCEQ – Austin personnel. Self introductions were made of all in attendance. Sign-in sheet attached to Minutes. Orville Ballard and Roel Rodriguez attended via conference call.
- III. Wayne named new Watermaster Advisory Committee members. They are:

Bruce Hardwicke – Hardwicke Farms
Jorge Barrera – City of Eagle Pass
Brian Macmanus – East Rio Hondo W.S.C.
Imer De La Garza – US FWS

Moe mentioned that Roy Cooley at Maverick County Water Irrigation District No. 1 had retired and that Cynthia Martinez is the interim General Manager.

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) commented that she needed contact information for all WAC members for the website.

- IV. Moe provided a Record of Discussion of the July 28, 2011 meeting. Since there was no quorum, there were no Minutes.
- V. Cindy discussed the proposed Watermaster Budget. Total budget for all watermaster programs in the state totals \$1.4 million.
The Rio Grande Watermaster Operation proposed budget is \$764,198.66. It is an increase of \$59,927.44 over the FY12 Budget. Assessed amount will be \$779,794.56 (based on 98% collection rate.)
The proposed municipal rate is \$0.3441. Irrigation pays 80% of municipal.

It was moved and seconded to recommend to the Executive Director the proposed budget. After discussion, the motion carried.

- VI. Moe provided the Watermaster Reports:
 - Update on Mexico's progress in meeting 1944 Treaty requirements
 - Precipitation in the Big Bend area
 - Mexico's storage at Amistad/Falcon Reservoir system is 43.0%
U.S. storage at Amistad/Falcon Reservoir system is 51.08%
 - The 78,000 acre feet that was released by the U.S. from Falcon Dam to dilute the high TDS readings at Anzalduas Dam due to Mexico not operating the El Morillo Drain Pumping Plant has not been repaid by Mexico.

- VII. As for legislative issues, Wayne stated that there is no current legislation on Watermaster program.
- VIII. Sonny Hinojosa reported on the El Morillo Drain. The transfer of operations of the El Morillo Drain has occurred from CONAGUA to CILA. Pumping operations were down last month to accommodate refurbishing of pumps and cleaning out various siphons. The plant is operational at this time, but improvements and refurbishing of equipment will continue.
- IX. There were no public comments or concerns.
- X. Wayne commented that there are no meetings scheduled at this time, but welcomed any members to call if there was a need for a meeting.
- XI. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

THESE MINUTES WERE READ AND APPROVED ON THIS, THE _____
DAY OF _____, 2012.

_____, CHAIR

_____, SECRETARY